Capital Letter:

NUAL YORK

Radio-TV Star

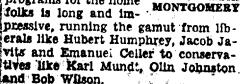
By RUTH MONTGOMERY

MASHINGTON: One of the most popular pastimes on Capitol Hill is recording radio and television shows for the greater edification of the voters back home.

Both the House and Senate have

their recording rooms, where for a fraction of the usual commercial costs legislators can tape the nuggets of wisdom, blarney and corn which the local stations spin as a public service.

The list of Senators and Representatives who turn out regular programs for the home



The undisputed radio-TV star of Congress, however, is white-maned, ruddy-cheeked, blue-eyed Benator Kenneth Kesting of New York.

Ken's spectacular popularity is due

not to his looks but to the fact that he got to the airway of line of with the mostest, and is still the ostest.

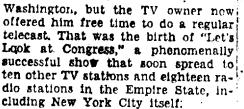
Newsmen have to offer Keating's television program every week—no other legislator est make this boast—because he invarianty makes good, solid

He often not may out-scoops the best men, but also the big-name news panel shows with the quality of his guest stars. Fell a layer without a grain of journal stic of plevision training, he doesn's do too bally.

Few voters putside of his immediate constitution had even heard of

ate constitue by had even heard of Ken back in the when his hometown of Rochests: A sequired its first TV station.

As the toul entressman, Ken was already dring a racke program from



This enviable exposure obviously: did him no harm when he decided in 1958 to go after the vacated seat of Senator Irving S. Ives. During the dozen years since the TV show began, he has interviewed every member of President Eisenhower's cabinet except foot-in-mouth Charlie Wilson, and also such nearly-impossible-to-get officials as spy chief Allen Dulles and FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover.

He has interviewed John F. Kennedy every year except this one, and has now started on JFK's cabinet, adding Attorney General Bobby Kennedy, Labor Secretary Arthur J. Goldberg and Wolfare Secretary Abraham Ribicoff to his string of VIPA Commerce Secretary Luther Hodgesils slated as his next victim.

The victims, incidentally, love it, since the GOP Senator never argues with them, gives them tree rein, but grinningly tells the viewer that their views are not necessarily his own.

Keating alternates the straight-interview show with another one called, "Ask Ken Keating," which gives him a chance to answer his mail on television.

vision.

The witty Republican cons even the busiest cabinet officit, ambassador or agency head into the ting him at the Senate recording to make the telecasts. Nobody was palt, and the tapes are furnished free to the stations which split the diffultesime records which split the hiffinitesimit record-

This seems to be one of those care schemes where everybody getter the thing for nothing. No wonder hen is the envy of Capitol Hill.

